

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 L-03 H-01 ACDA-12 MCE-00 EB-08 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /074 W

-----047151 250921Z /15

O 250817Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7178

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1837

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: MASS, PEPR, EINV, SU, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AL-TAHIR

REF: (A) STATE 104456 (B) KHARTOUM 1752 (C) KHARTOUM 1759

1. EMBASSY DID NOT REPEAT DID NOT PREPARE FORMAL MEMCON OF APRIL 13 CONVERSATION BETWEEN SECRETARY AND SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR AND DCM WERE PRESENT DURING CONVERSATION AT AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE, IT PROVED TO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO HEAR REMARKS OF FOREIGN MINISTER AL-TAHIR. SECRETARY AND FONMIN SPENT APPROXIMATELY 1/2 HOUR ALONE TOGETHER DURING DRIVE AROUND KHARTOUM CITY. EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW, WE DID NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS PART OF CONVERSATION IN DETAIL WITH SECRETARY WHO LEFT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RETURN TO AIRPORT. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, PREPARED INFORMAL MEMCON DATED APRIL 15 AND SENT TO DEPARTMENT (AF/E) UNDER COVER APRIL 17 BOGOSIAN-WAUCHOPE LETTER (REGISTRY NUMBER 776788).

2. RE F-5'S THE SECRETARY VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ACCELERATE THE DELIVERY OF F-5 AIRCRAFT TO SUDAN. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT OFFICIAL AND FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF OUR INTENT TO SELL THE AIRCRAFT TO SUDAN

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HAS BEEN GIVEN TO CONGRESS. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE CAN TELL ONLY FOUR F-5 TRAINERS EARMARKED FOR SAUDI ARABIA MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE DELIVERY TO SUDAN. THE FOREIGN MINISTER NODDED APPROVINGLY AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO SEND THESE PLANES TO SUDAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE SECRETARY ASKED ABOUT OTHER FIGHTERS IN SUDAN'S INVENTORY. THE FOREIGN

MINISTER REPLIED THAT THERE WERE ESSENTIALLY NONE THAT WERE OPERATIONAL.

3. IN ADDITION TO F-5'S AND HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS PROBLEM OF CUBANS AND SOVIETS IN ETHIOPIA WITH SOVIET LEADERS DURING HIS STOP IN MOSCOW (REF C), SECRETARY ALSO DISCUSSED U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN.

4. FOLLOWING A DRIVE AROUND KHARTOUM DURING WHICH HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE IN PRIVATE, THE SECRETARY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THEY DISCUSSED WAYS THE U.S. COULD HELP THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SUDAN. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW UP ON THIS MATTER IN WASHINGTON. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR TAKE THE LEAD AND SAID HE HAD TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT HE WOULD TRY TO ENCOURAGE A GROUP OF AMERICAN BUSINESS LEADERS TO COME TO SUDAN TO EXPLORE INCREASED INVESTMENT HERE. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT THE SUDAN-U.S. BUSINESS COUNCIL, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF TENNECO AND ALLIS CHALMERS THROUGH THEIR CHAIRMAN, HAD BEEN WORKING TOWARD THE SAME END. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT SUDAN HAS SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THAT THE U.S. ASSISTANCE EFFORT WAS SLOW IN GETTING UNDERWAY. THE DCM OBSERVED THAT U.S. PRIVATE ACTIVITY IN SUDAN WAS HAMPERED BY THE INABILITY OF EXIMBANK TO PROVIDE ANY MEANINGFUL ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF SUDAN'S ARREARAGES.

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4. AT THIS POINT THE SECRETARY WAS CALLED TO HIS AIR-CRAFT WHICH WAS READY TO DEPART FOR DAR ES-SALAAM. AFTER THE PLANE DEPARTED, THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE SECRETARY TO INDICATE THAT HE WOULD TRY TO GET THE U.S. INVESTORS' GROUP HERE FAIRLY SOON. THE SCENARIO, AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER UNDERSTOOD IT, WAS THAT THE GROUP WOULD COME HERE BEFORE THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT DUE TO CONVENE ON MAY 23. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY HAD AGREED TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS QUESTION WHEN THEY MET AT THE UNGA.

BERGUS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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